

SECURITY INFORMATION  
TOP SECRET

20 December 1951

ITEM 2

Program for Soviet Orbit Escapees

Summary: This staff study is the product of PSB action of 25 October 1951, which directed the formation of a panel to consider this problem.

This study represents the first of two papers to be prepared on this subject and recommends the assignment of responsibility for assuring proper care and disposal of escapees from the Soviet Orbit who cannot be utilized in existing U. S. programs. This is urgent since IRO ceases existence at the end of February, 1952. After thorough consideration of all potential Governmental and private organizations or agencies to administer and coordinate this activity, the study recommends that the State Department be charged with the over-all administering and coordinating responsibility, with certain supporting responsibilities incumbent upon CIA, Department of Defense, and the MSA.

Paragraph 20, page 8, of the main report sets forth five possible sources of financial support for this activity. At the PSB Alternates Meeting on Monday, 17 December, the Department of State indicated it would prefer assurance of its operating funds from one source and felt that the MSA should provide the full 8 million dollars, instead of the present 2½ million dollars tentatively allocated against the Kirsten Amendment. The Department of State feels further that it should have the freedom of decision with respect to how the administering will be performed, i.e., with augmented personnel or by sub-delegation to an appropriate non-governmental commission or committee. The points raised by the Department of State appear valid and reasonable.

Recommendation: (a) That you note <sup>and approve</sup> the recommendations of the report (pages 12 and 13), with particular reference to paragraph 6, page 13; (b) That you propose the addition of the following clause in the recommendations pertaining to CIA responsibilities in order to assure full consideration of the

CIA interests: "23 b. (2) To provide the necessary guidance for planning and effecting access to escapees in connection with covert U. S. programs."

(c) That you concur in the recommendations and support the concepts with respect to administration and financing advanced by the State member.

See Staff Study #12